

CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

NEWS SERVICE

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (AP) - CIA Director George Bush says a democracy like the United States cannot survive without an intelligence system protected by secrecy.

"I challenge those who claim that secrecy in intelligence work is inconsistent with freedom and democracy to give us a realistic preview of what this nation's freedom and democracy would look like if we alone in this imperfect world decided to abandon this essential protection against our adversaries," Bush told a Chamber of Commerce dinner here Wednesday.

Bush said that descriptions of "dirty tricks artists" and "fictional notions" that have little to do with the agency's real work. He said intelligence gathering relies more on a community of scholars than a network of spies.

0154R00 09-02